



# **Tennessee's Early Intervention System**

**Early Childhood IDEA Programs**

**Division of Special Populations**

**Tennessee Department of Education**

**June 2013**

Tennessee's Early Intervention System (TEIS) is a voluntary educational program for families with children age birth through two years old with disabilities or developmental delays.

**TEIS is a program of Tennessee's  
Early Childhood IDEA Programs  
Division of Special Populations  
Tennessee Department of Education**

TEIS provides services as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)





TEIS links families with services and support to help them work with their child who has a disability and/or developmental delay.



# TEIS has NINE district offices or Point of Entry (POE) throughout the State of Tennessee

## **East TN Region**

- First  
Johnson City
- East  
Knoxville
- Southeast  
Chattanooga

## **Middle TN Region**

- Upper Cumberland  
Cookeville
- Greater Nashville  
Nashville
- South Central  
Murfreesboro

## **West TN Region**

- Northwest  
Martin
- Southwest  
Jackson
- Memphis Delta  
Memphis



# Who should call TEIS?

Families...



Medical Professionals...



or other people who are concerned about a child's development.



# How do I make a referral?

- By calling the POE District Office that provides services for the child's county of residence, or
- By calling the TEIS Referral line at 1-800-852-7157, or
- By email via the TEIS website:  
<http://www.TN.Gov/education/teis>







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# Once a referral is made, what is the next step?

The local TEIS POE Office will assign a service coordinator to call and talk with the family to set up a visit.

**\*REMEMBER....TEIS is a VOLUNTARY program. Parents can decline participation at any point in the process.**





# How is a child eligible for TEIS?

- Children diagnosed with certain disabilities
- Children who show a 25% delay in two developmental areas: motor, communication, cognition, social, and adaptive
- Or children with a 40% delay in one area, may be eligible for TEIS.

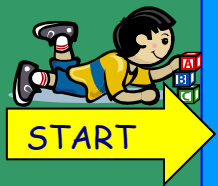


# **Who determines if a child is eligible for TEIS?**

The TEIS POE Eligibility Team gathers information from the child's doctor as well as the results of a developmental evaluation, administered by a TEIS Developmental Specialist, to determine a child's initial and continued eligibility for TEIS.



# Traveling through Tennessee's Early Intervention System



**Step 1**  
A parent, doctor, or anyone concerned about a child's development calls TEIS to make a referral. The family is provided a Q & A brochure.

**Step 2**  
The family is called by a Service Coordinator

**Step 3**  
**Intake Meeting.**  
The Family is introduced to Part C in Tennessee as well as voluntarily participating in a developmental screening or discussion regarding an eligible diagnosis. During the intake meeting, if the family chooses to continue, the following will be discussed:

- \*Principles of Early Intervention
- \*Rights of Infants and Toddlers
- \*TEIS Central Directory (Pathfinder)
- \*The important role of parents and caregivers
- \*TEIS as payor of last resort
- \*Eligibility and IFSP process



**Step 7**

Initial IFSP Meeting

**Step 6**

If eligible, a family assessment/  
**Routines Based Interview (RBI)** will be completed with the family prior to the IFSP.

**Step 6**  
If not eligible, a family may re-refer at a later time.

**Step 5**  
Determining eligibility using diagnosis or results of Developmental Evaluation and required medical information.

**Step 4**  
Developmental Evaluation, Hearing Screening and Vision Screening

- \*Authorization for Release or Use of Information form
- \*Social security number and other information
- \*Plan of Action form
- \*Targeted Case Management, insurance and/or other coverage



**Step 8- Optional**  
A family may make a written request for an IFSP review if they have concerns regarding their supports, services, or outcomes.

**Step 9**  
The IFSP is reviewed at 6 months.

**Step 10** An annual IFSP is written 1 year after the initial IFSP and a year after that if applicable. Preparation for an annual IFSP includes a new developmental evaluation and updated medical records.

**Step 11**  
Transition Meeting



**Step 12**  
A child and family are no longer eligible for Part C (TEIS) on the day the child turns 3 years of age.

**STOP**



# Is free?

It is the right of every infant and toddler to receive an eligibility evaluation and service coordination at no cost. When a service has a cost, TEIS encourages families to allow access to their private and/or public insurance benefits.



# Principles of Early Intervention

- Early Intervention supports families to help their children develop.
- Early Intervention takes place at home and in the community *with the family*.
- Families and professionals work together to create and monitor goals.
- Goals are family-centered, written with the child and family's routine in mind.



# Principles of Early Intervention

- EI Plans focus on helping children become more social, explore their surroundings, and become more independent. (Early Childhood Outcomes)
- Families use home activity programs to work with their child throughout the week
- Goals and strategies are monitored to be sure they are effective.
- Providers working with families are kept to high standards.







**For more information or to make a referral  
please contact your POE District Office or  
visit our website at**

**<http://www.TN.Gov/education/teis>**





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